



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 734- 8732 ext. 3 ~ fax (559) 732-2805

February 8, 2012

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Brian Rueger, Scott Powell, Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings

Staff: Teri Van Huss, David Witt

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Mark Davis

DF&G: Krista Tomlinson, Ellen Cypher, John Battistoni, Erin Tennant

Meeting called to order at 12:26 by Tom Daly.

Minutes from the January 11th meeting were reviewed. Brian moved, and Scott seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Doug Souza presented the audit for FYE 6/30/2010 and 6/30/2011. He commented that there are four levels of audits in terms of good to one with serious deficiencies. This audit is good, with no concerns about how we operate or keep the books. Warren moved, Scott seconded that the audit be approved. Aye vote ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

David introduced Krista Tomlinson and her staff who are here as they are interested in having the RCD manage grazing leases for them. They have a requirement for managing leases in Tulare, Kern, and Fresno Counties. Krista reported they are all in the Fresno office. DF&G is creating a grazing policy, and have been encouraged to work with the local RCDs, so she called us to see if we would be interested in working with them.

She presented maps showing the locations. They have 25,000 acres on the valley floor that are ecological reserves, mostly not open to the public, and most contain threatened and endangered species. Access is usually limited by being closed, and some are isolated and land-locked.

Total of up to 16 different leases. Their baseline charge is a minimum of \$8/acre. Erin is working on the plan which really lines out the monitoring especially because of the endangered species. The money gained from the leases need to be held by us to use for monitoring and conservation activities.

Krista asked what the RCD charge would be for their services. David explained our normal fee is direct hours plus 10% admin. With discussion it's clear it will take some experience to understand how this will work the best.

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Tom commented that this project would be one the RCD would like to undertake and work through all the issues. Krista will be working with a draft MOU.

Fire Safe Council

Paul Marquez came to let us know how he's figured out how the RCD's water tender can be part of CAL-FIRE's effort. He's offering a draft agreement for how it would work practically. Dispatch and releases would work through the State time stamp system. The RCD could also get on a list for dispatch outside of Tulare County. Meantime this is a local agreement between the RCD and CAL-FIRE.

There was discussion of the number of free hours we could provide the agreement – it was decided that a 4-hour free time would be offered to CAL-FIRE. Cooperative assistance agreement between CAL-FIRE and the RCD with a 4-hour no-charge, and the State rate for type 2 water tenders (need rate for final draft agreement) Scott moved, Brian seconded the motion. Aye vote ensued.

People's Gardens of Tulare County

Teri report the second informational community meeting was held on January 27th, 2012, at the NRCS office. Teri reported on a potential garden site for our first "Demonstration" garden that NRCS will do at the Provisions Food plant on Goshen and Divisadero in Visalia. Teri and Scott will meet with Greg de Graaf on Friday, February 10th.

Website

Teri has contacted the Emily Sutherland, the administrator at CARCD to build a simple website, obtain the domain name, and set up the webhosting.

Truck 3 Incident Report

The check for the truck repair was received, in the amount of \$2,500. The repairs have been completed by Bob.

IRWMP – Bob says the grant application will go in about March 9th – and then there will be a wait time.

David – Ponderosa Fuel Load Reduction (\$195,000) 100 acres (with RCD chipper); Mountain Home FLR (170 acres) mastication (\$200,000) Prop 40 applications for Board approval: Brian moves the Mountain Home FLR application by moved, Stan seconded, aye vote ensued. Scott moves, Brian seconded to submit the Ponderosa FLR, aye vote ensued.

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Blue Ridge – Bob reported they moved 10% of the piles.

Bob reported on the Chapman movie project with the water tender – two nights with three guys. They started the fires with different types of fuel for different levels of fire. It went well with no fuel leftover.

NRCS Report

Last Friday was the last day to apply for a tractor – 681 applications.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Next meeting is March 14th..

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss